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THE MOST CATAclySMIC
EVENTS OF SPIDER-MAN'S
LIFE BEGIN IN THIS ISSUE!

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

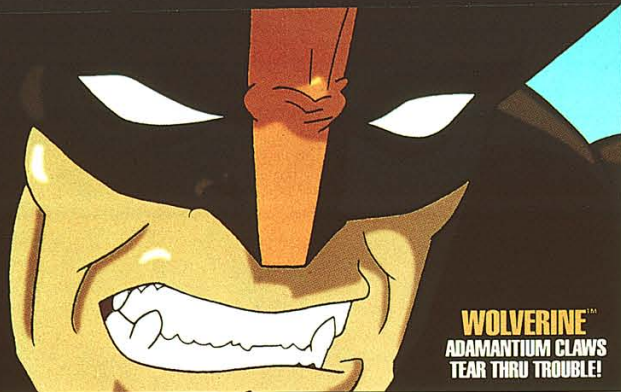


IT ALL STARTS
WITH THE
VULTURE'S
ULTIMATE
REVENGE!

02



DO NOT MISS
LIFETHEFT
PART ONE



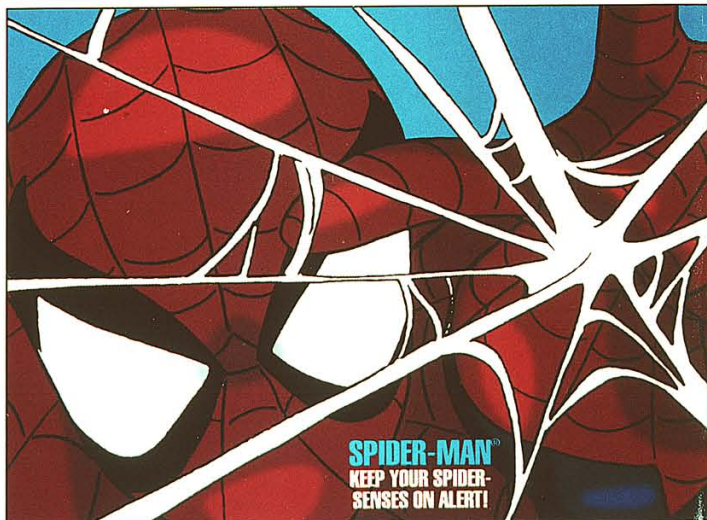
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BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS. THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®



RYKER'S ISLAND PRISON COMPLEX.

WHO'DA THINK IT?



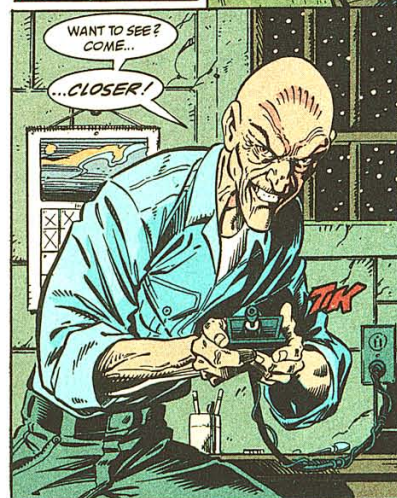
ADRIAN TOOMES, THE VULTURE-- LIKIN' SWING MUSIC!

ACTUALLY, I ONLY PRETENDED SUCH INTEREST, SO I COULD OBTAIN THESE AUDIO COMPONENTS!

YOU SEE, THEY WORK ON ELECTRO-MAGNETISM.

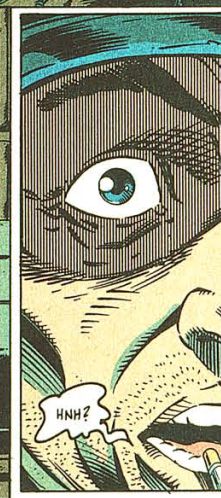


AND THAT, MY FRIEND, IS SOMETHING I DO HAVE AN INTEREST IN!



WANT TO SEE? COME...

...CLOSER!



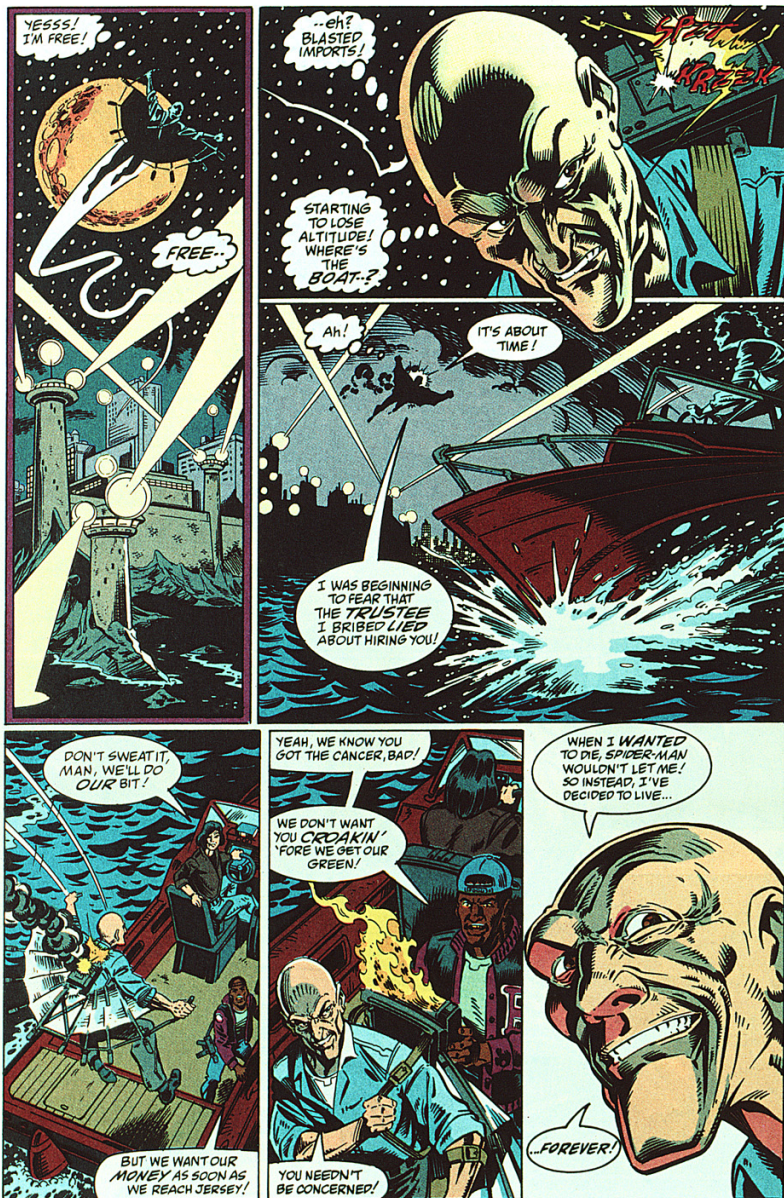
HNH?



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WHILE AT THAT MOMENT, AT THE FOREST HILLS RESIDENCE OF MAY PARKER...



THANKS FOR COMIN', MR. PARKER! I THOUGHT *SOMEONE* SHOULD KNOW WHAT'S GOIN' ON!

MR. SCUDDER! YOU ASKED PETER TO VISIT?

SORRY, MA'AM. I KNOW YOU HIRED ME TO INVESTIGATE YOUR BROTHER-IN-LAW AND HIS WIFE, BUT--

WHAT?!

THAT'S RIGHT. AND THEY CHECKED OUT A-OKAY. BUT MS. PARKER HERE INSISTED I KEEP TRYIN'!



LAST NIGHT WHEN I HAD 'EM UNDER SURVEILLANCE, THE COPS ROUSTED ME!

I'M THROUGH!



AUNT MAY? YOU HAD MOM AND DAD FOLLOWED?!

-- I DON'T THINK THEY ARE YOUR PARENTS!

B-BUT, PETER DEAR--



IF YA ASK ME, THE LADY NEEDS PROFESSIONAL HELP. HAD ME A GRANDMA GOT ALZHEIMER'S BACK IN '86!

IT AIN'T PRETTY.



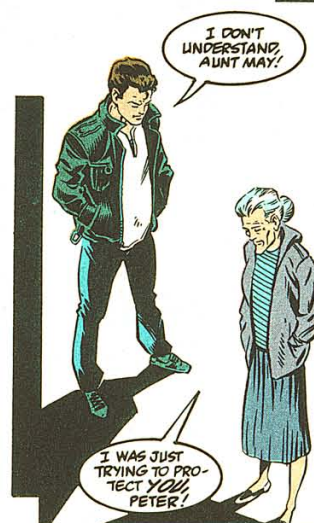
I DON'T UNDERSTAND, AUNT MAY!

BUT RICHARD AND MARY?

I...

I WAS JUST TRYING TO PROTECT YOU, PETER!

HOW COULD YOU?



WHY, PETER? WE DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D BE HERE!

WHAT A NICE SURPRISE!

HI, MOM, DAD!

GUESS THIS IS JUST A NIGHT FOR THE UNEXPECTED!



Konami just took your favorite shows off TV.

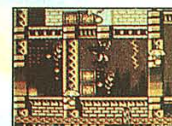
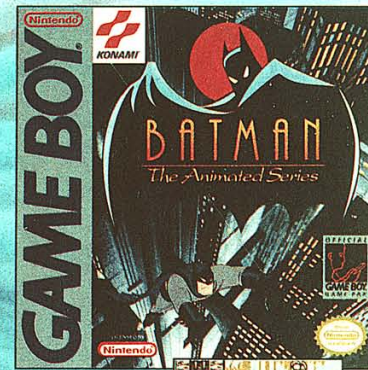
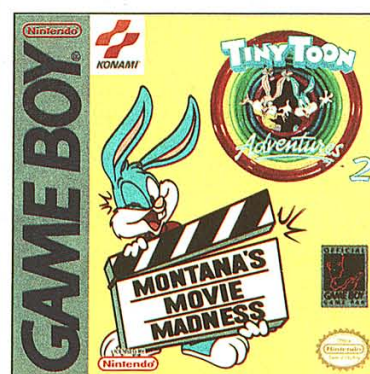
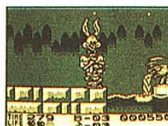
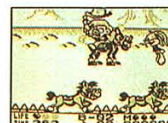
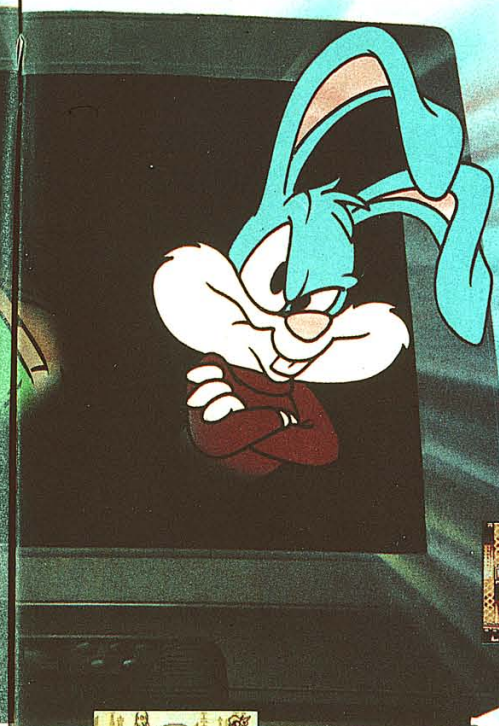
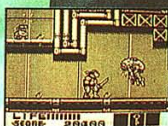
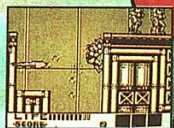
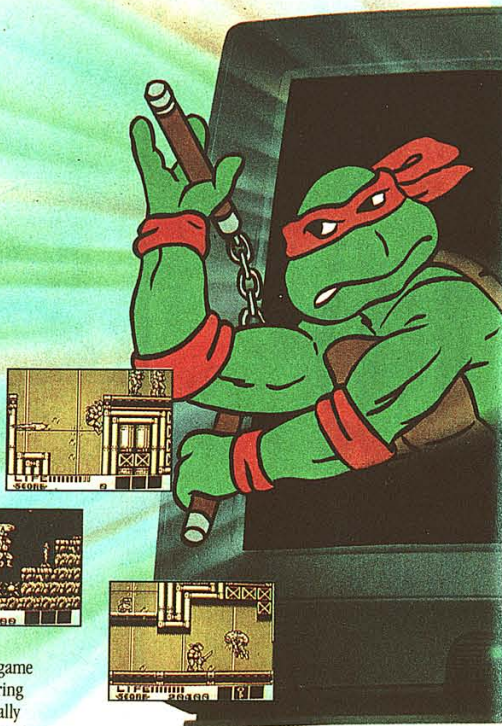
It's time for a change of scenery as Konami takes the TV style adventures of The Turtles, the Tiny Toon Adventures characters and *Batman: The Animated Series* to Game Boy. With no commercials!

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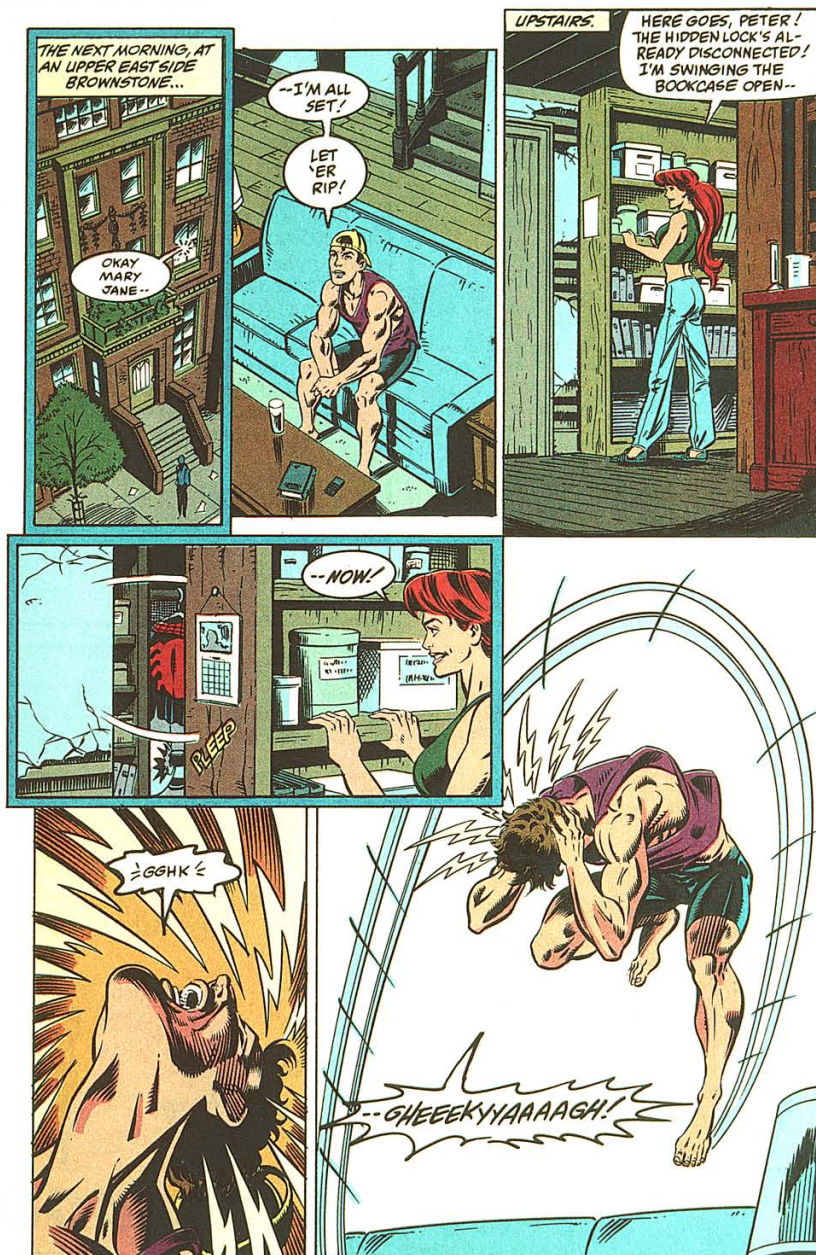
Tiny Toon Adventures 2™—Montana's Movie Madness premieres 4 freaky films directed by that Bad Boy of the Box Office, Montana Max. And he's cast Buster Bunny as the villain! Buster must use new attack moves like the Fast Dash and Freeze Kick to defend his character. Buster's screen test includes action packed scenes in a classic western, a samurai saga, a sci-fi thriller, a creature feature and cool subgames. Ultimately, Buster takes on Max himself and tries to drop the curtain on his movie career.

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ooo! EEEES! YOWTCH!

3 WHEW! I RIGGED THIS ALARM SYSTEM WITH THE SAME TECHNOLOGY AS MY TRACERS!

IT'S SUPPOSED TO TRIGGER MY SPIDER-SENSE!

BUT I GUESS I'D BETTER SET THE INTENSITY A LITTLE LOWER! Sheh?

"FRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO DO IT WITHOUT YOUR LOYAL "HELPER," HON.

I'VE GOT THAT PARN MALL SHOW TO PROMOTE MY SOAP OPERA TO DO!

PRETTY GLAM-OROUS, HUH?

COME ON, SWEETHEART, YOUR ACTING CAREER WILL GET BACK ON TRACK SOON!

YEAH, I GUESS.

GONNA DO SOME MORE UN-PACKING WHILE I'M GONE!

THERE'S... SOMETHING I NEED TO CHECK INTO.

CAN'T. I HAVE TO GO TO THE UNIVERSITY FOR A WHILE.

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AND SOON, AT THE CAMPUS OF EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY...



...IN THE OFFICE OF DR. BENITA SANCHEZ...

I'VE READ ABOUT YOUR WORK, DOCTOR. YOUR "JUVENATOR" RESEARCH IS THE TALK OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY!

THAT'S WHY I CAME TO YOU: YOU'RE TOPS IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN AGING, AND...



...ITS EFFECTS.

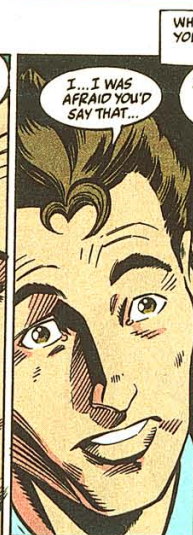


I'M NO MYSTIC, PETER. I CAN'T DIAGNOSE A PATIENT I HAVEN'T SEEN.

BUT FROM WHAT YOU DESCRIBE--



--I CAN'T RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE.



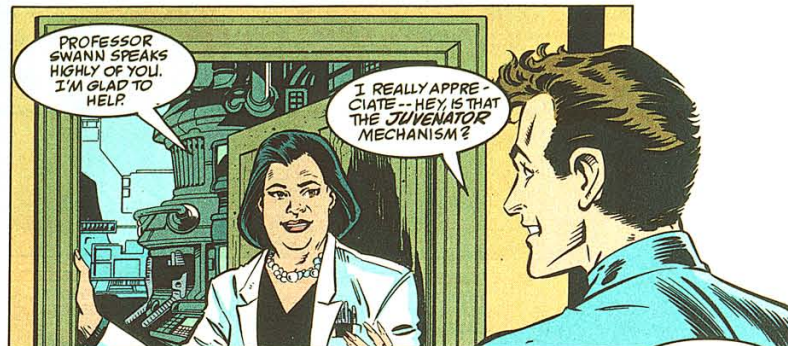
I... I WAS AFRAID YOU'D SAY THAT...



WHY DON'T YOU BRING YOUR AUNT TO SEE ME?

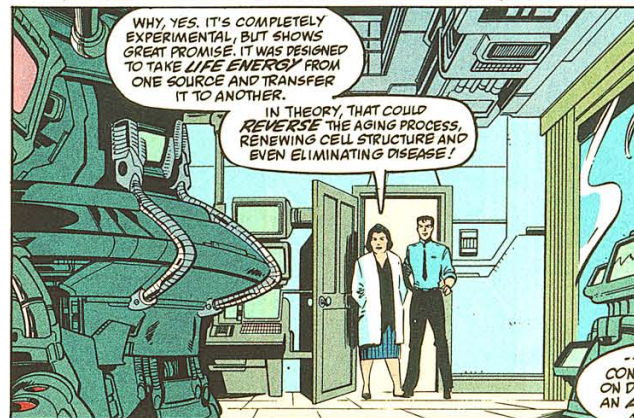
I'LL RUN SOME TESTS.

S-SURE, DOC. THANKS.



PROFESSOR SWANN SPEAKS HIGHLY OF YOU. I'M GLAD TO HELP.

I REALLY APPRECIATE -- HEY IS THAT THE JUVENATOR MECHANISM?



WHY, YES. IT'S COMPLETELY EXPERIMENTAL, BUT SHOWS GREAT PROMISE. IT WAS DESIGNED TO TAKE LIFE ENERGY FROM ONE SOURCE AND TRANSFER IT TO ANOTHER.

IN THEORY, THAT COULD REVERSE THE AGING PROCESS, RENEWING CELL STRUCTURE AND EVEN ELIMINATING DISEASE!

OF COURSE, WE CAN'T GO AROUND TAKING HUMAN LIFE FORCE--



--SO I'M CONCENTRATING ON DEVELOPING AN ARTIFICIAL ALTERNATIVE.



BUT SPEAKING OF WORK, I'D BETTER GET BACK TO IT!

THANKS AGAIN, DR. SANCHEZ.



GUESS I SHOULD CALL MARY JANE... LET HER KNOW WHAT'S GOING--



--THE ANSWERING MACHINE? OH, YEAH-- THAT MALL SHOW!



NUTS! I COULD REALLY USE MJ'S ADVICE...

--AND SUPPORT!

I'VE A FEELING BAD TIMES MAY BE ON THE WAY.

AUNT MAY'S... SITUATION... HAS MADE ME THINK ABOUT FAMILY LATELY, AND ABOUT TRUST.

AUNT MAY DOESN'T TRUST MOM AND DAD, DOESN'T BELIEVE IN THEM.

BUT I DO BELIEVE IN THEM, I NEED TO BELIEVE IN THEM. QUESTION IS, DO I BELIEVE ENOUGH TO FINALLY SHARE MY GREATEST SECRET...

--THAT I'M SPIDER-MAN!



WHA...? SPIDER-SENSE TINGLING LIKE CRAZY! THERE'S SOMETHING DANGEROUS...

--IN DR. SANCHEZ'S LAB!



BUT WHILE PETER PARKER MAKES A SWIFT CHANGE TO RED AND BLUE...

...AT A LONG ISLAND SHOPPING MALL --

--HIS WIFE IS MERELY BLUE!

I'M AN ACTRESS, BLAST IT, NOT A PITCHMAN!

THIS IS HUMILIATING...

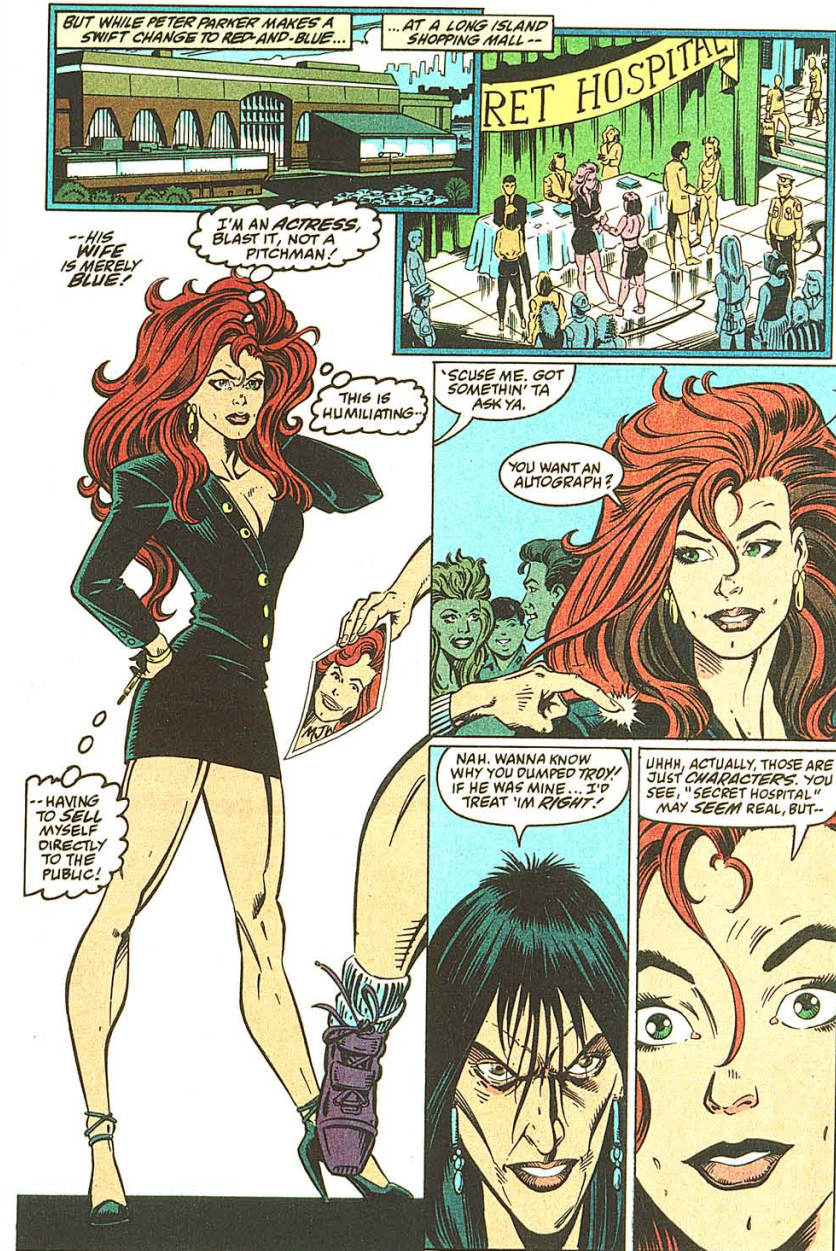
'SCUSE ME, GOT SOMETHIN' TA ASK YA.

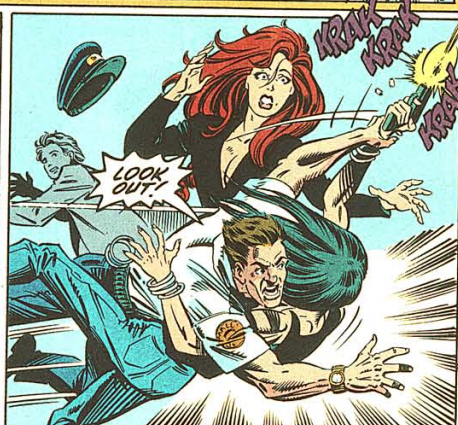
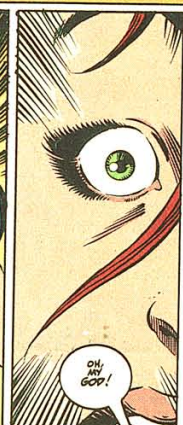
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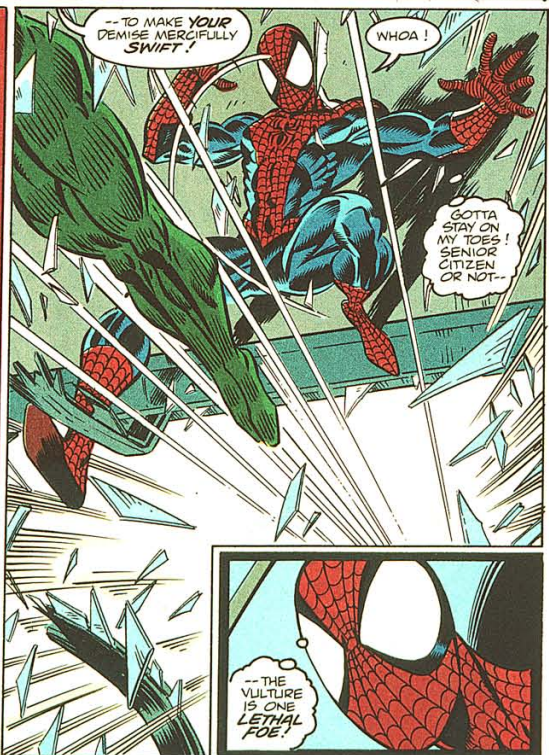
--HAVING TO SELL MYSELF DIRECTLY TO THE PUBLIC!

NAH, WANNA KNOW WHY YOU DUMPED TROY? IF HE WAS MINE... I'D TREAT 'IM RIGHT!

UHHH, ACTUALLY, THOSE ARE JUST CHARACTERS. YOU SEE, "SECRET HOSPITAL" MAY SEEM REAL, BUT--







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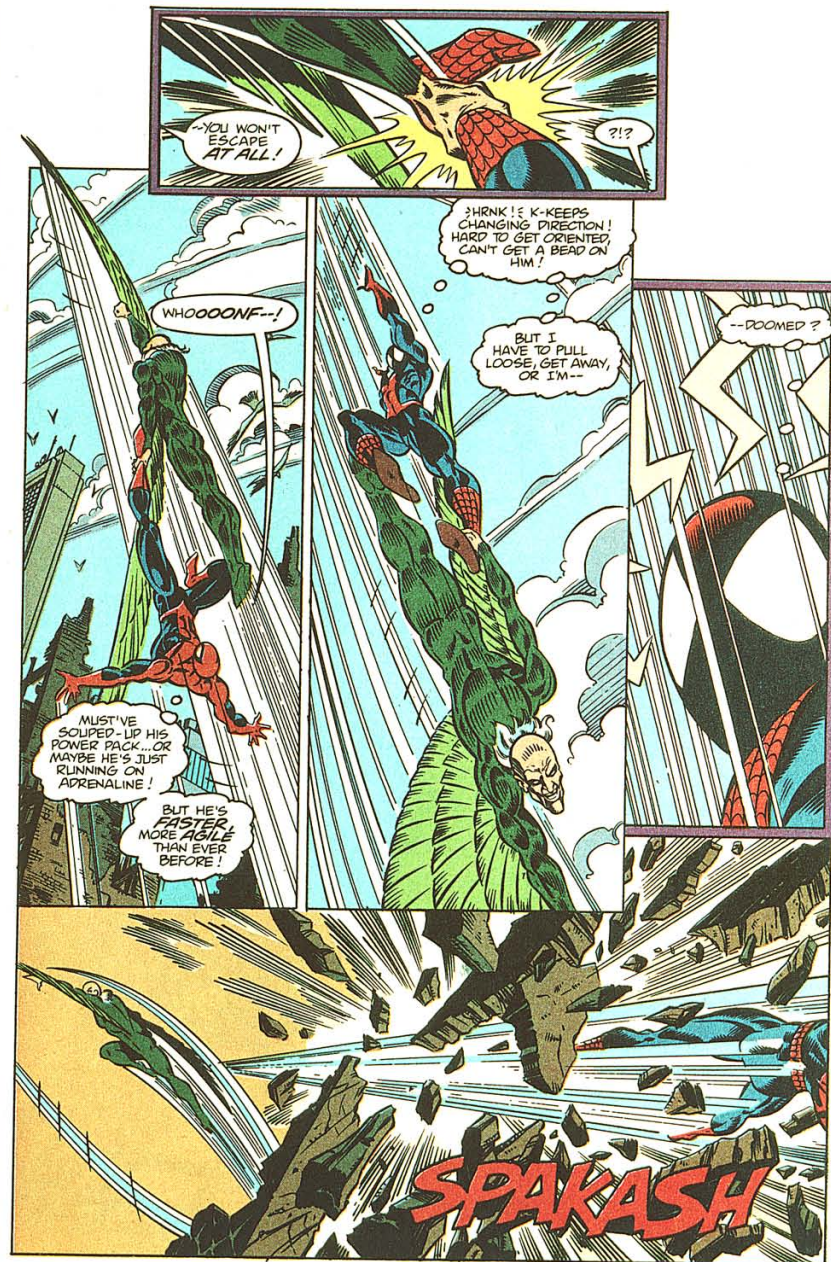
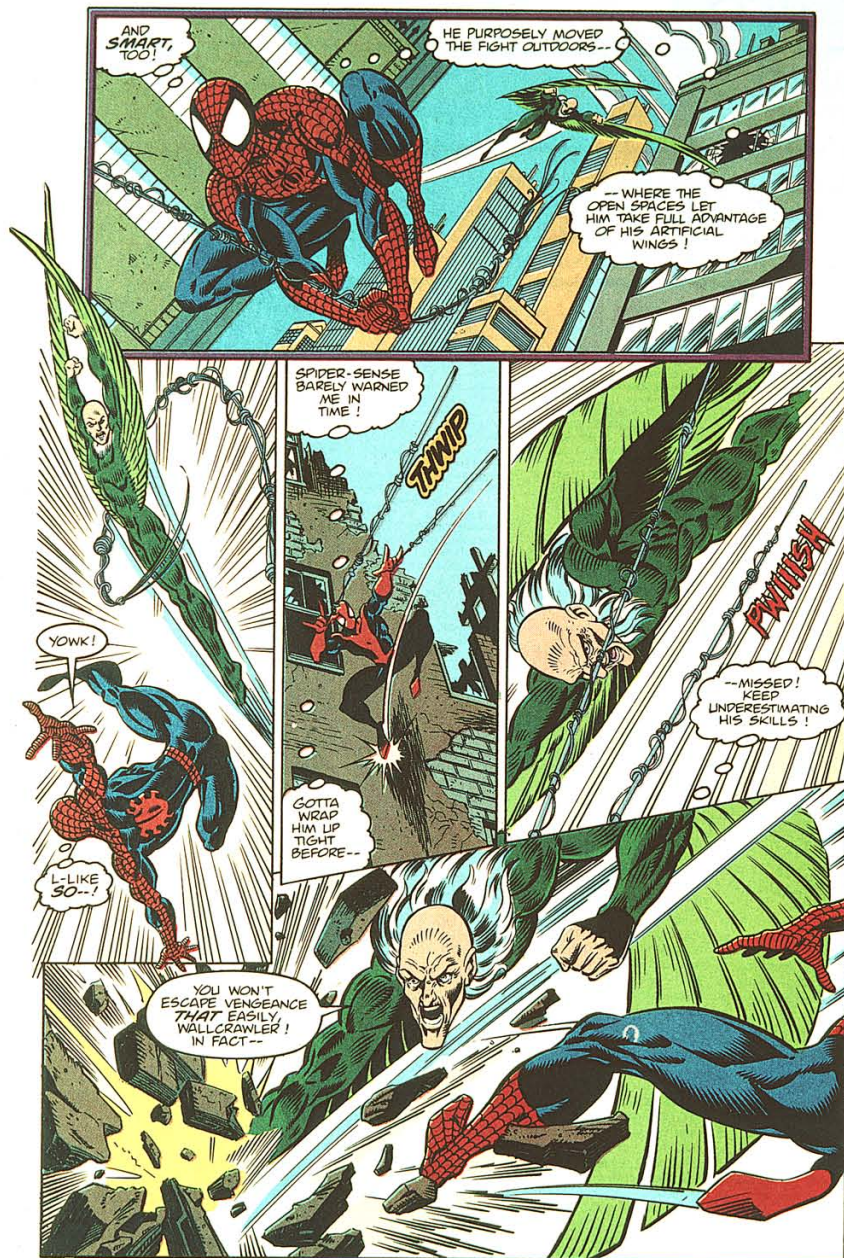
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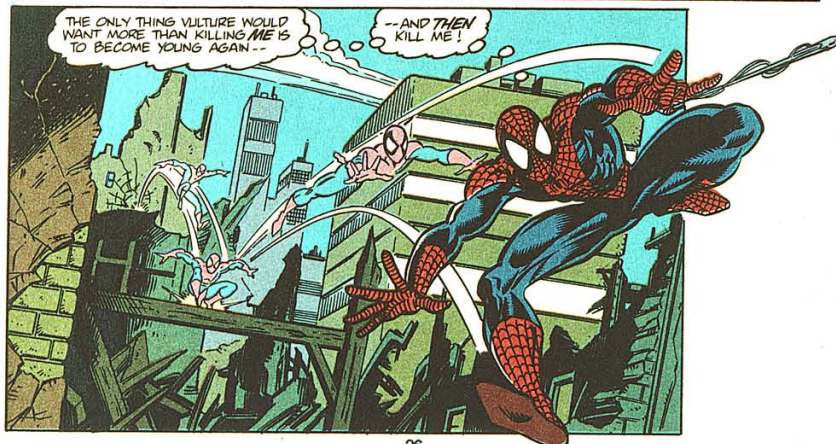
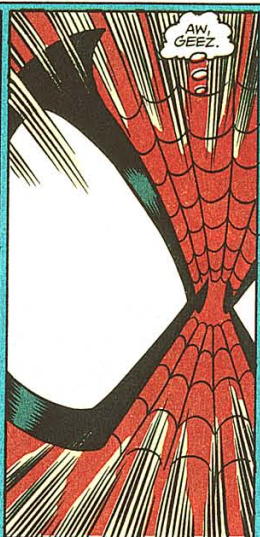
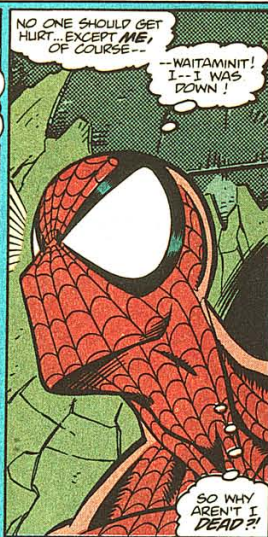
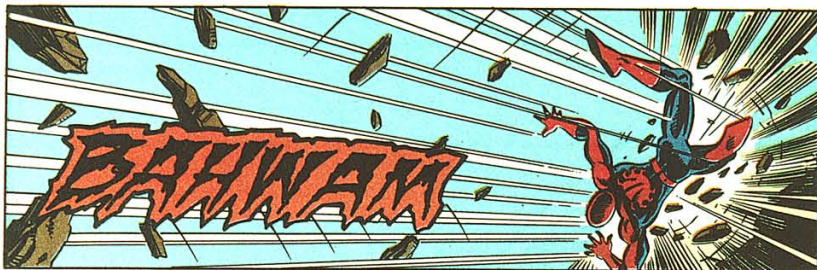
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BULLPEN BULLETINS

JOEY'S JOINT

Apparently, Mark Gruenwald doesn't think you're getting quite enough of my little drive-by shootings on the information superhighway, so he's asked me to do the equivalent of an "Out of My Head" for this page. Just as well. They've been squeezed out of my letter pages, on account of the big 2009 crossover, "The Fall of the Hammer!"

What is so cool about a crossover that I would wanna spend every waking (and, occasionally, sleepwalking) moment at the Marvel offices coordinating this five-issue event? That includes the giant moosey wall chart showing how each of the characters gets to where, when and how. That includes the long phone calls and faxes from Marvel in NYC to each of the writers (John Francis Moore, San Francisco; Pat Mills and Tony Skinner, England; Peter David, Romania: don't ask) to get everybody to agree to the events on the wall chart. Not to mention my assistant, Matt Morra, continually reminding me of the correct spelling of "Krystallin."

So why do it? 'Cause it gives us the opportunity to do some really fun things. We got five, no make that, six new villains. We got a brand new locale in the 2009 universe, the floating city of Valhalla, that turns into a battleground almost as soon as it's built. And we've got the chance to bring all the 2009 characters to meet each other for the first time!

That was the especially cool part for Matt and myself: getting to see the artists' renditions of characters they don't normally draw. Rick Leonardi did a dramatically dark take on the Punisher, 2009, and Tom Morgan did a wild and woody Ravage! Both Grant Miehm and Ron Lim got a chance to draw the whole gang, so we'll see their interpretations of everybody from Doom to the X-Men!

In other words, we do it 'cause it's fun for us. And if we're having a good time, chances are you'll enjoy yourself, too.

"The Fall of the Hammer" shows up in SPIDER-MAN 2009 #16, RAVAGE 2009 #15, X-MEN 2009 #5, DOOM 2009 #14 and THE PUNISHER 2009 #13. If you don't show up, we'll all feel pretty silly talking to ourselves.

Joe

THE BULL'S EYE

by RICK PARKER



This holiday season, there are so many great TV specials on, it's tougher than ever to get out to do your holiday shopping. After all, which would you rather do — wait in line for hours in a crowded department store, or spend the evening relaxing by a fireplace with Billy Ray Cyrus's *Achy Breaky Christmas Special*?

Well, now, through the miracle of television, it is possible to do all your holiday shopping without ever leaving your living room! That's right, we're talking about that mega-convenient home shopping channel called QVC (Quality Viewer's Choice). In recent months, QVC has been offering a cornucopia of comic book merchandise!

Whenever QVC has comics to pitch, they usually like to have a Marveloid doing the pitching! Among the Marvel superheroes who've answered QVC's Quest for Video Champions are Peter (INCREDIBLE HULK) David, Scott (X-MEN) Lobdell, and Fabian (pretty much every other Marvel title) Nicieza. These three gents did their best to sell a variety of products, including our Quite Vivid Comics!

Peter David, who went on QVC primarily to promote his Spock-erific *Star Trek* novel, *Imzadi*, says his impressions of his home shopping debut are "a little hazy, since I was on from one to three in the morning," but overall he found it a "smartly

run, tightly knit organization." Peter finds it amusing that QVC sometimes promotes a product as a limited edition — since, as he notes, "everything in the world is a limited edition! Nothing is infinite!" (Except for the number of titles we can spin off from the X-MEN, of course.)

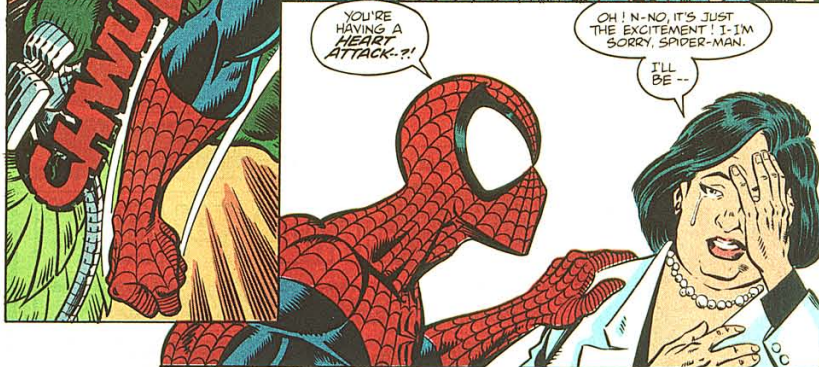
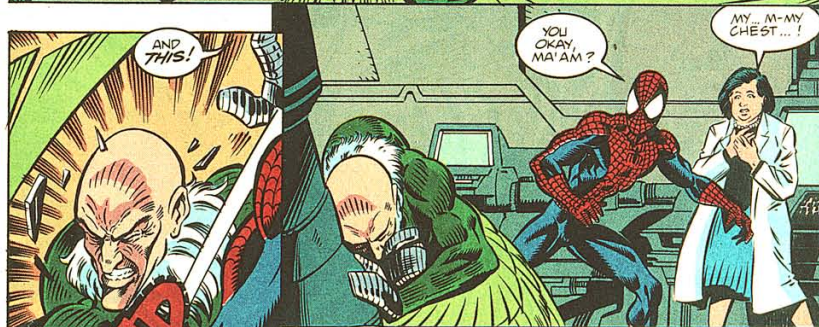
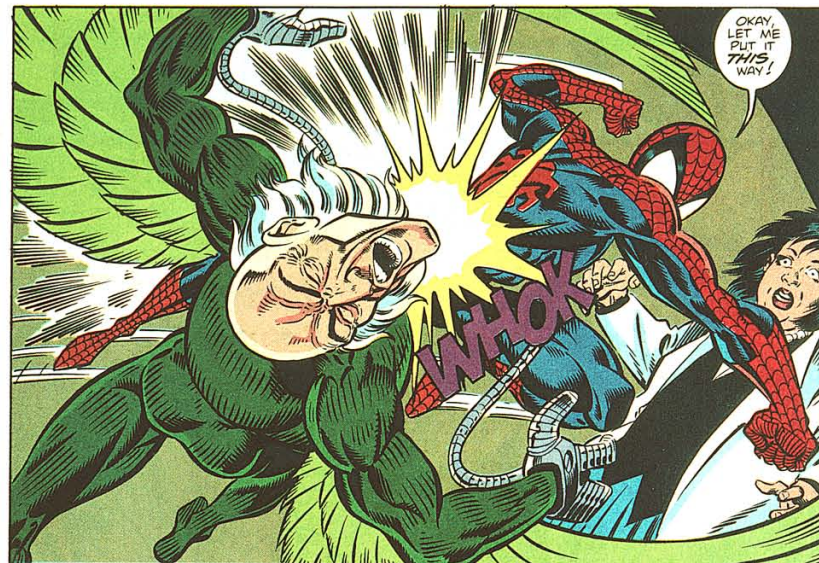
X-MEN writer Scott Lobdell's only TV experience prior to appearing on QVC was as an audience member of the *Phil Donahue Show*. Scott said that he was "inspired by Phil" to try the small-screen himself. First Scott phoned in some questions during a Stan Lee QVC appearance, and then followed that up with a live-starring stint of his own on an all-X-MEN QVC extravaganza this past October. Scott's TV debut came on a Monday night, which, as Scott pointed out, meant "I had to slug it out with Murphy Brown, but I was ready for her!"

Scott sees QVC as a launching pad for future screen projects. "I plan to star in the QVC movie," Scott said. "It'll be me and Clint Eastwood trying to sell my CAPTAIN ULTRA Limited Series. It'll be called, 'In the Line to Get Fired!'"

Scott's fellow mutant writer, Fabian Nicieza, also put in some time in the QVC studios this past August. Fabes says a QVC appearance is "a good way to promote ourselves and promote our product. We get to reach a new audience." Fabes compares a QVC appearance to the *Oprah Winfrey Show* in reverse: "I like to say that Oprah is a talk show with commercials in between. We're commercials with a talk show in between!"

Fabe turned his appearance into a Marvel infomercial, with a behind-the-scenes look at how comics are created, phone calls from home viewers, and previews of upcoming X-MEN stuff. Marveloids on QVC usually promote the latest issue of whichever comic they're working on, and they can move anywhere from two to five thousand autographed copies in a two hour show.

So if you're looking for an alternative to fighting holiday traffic, unruly shoppers, and snooty store clerks, you may want to consider doing some of your gift-buying at home this year. Operators are standing by!



HYPELINE: ON SALE THIS WEEK

- | | | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALPHA FLIGHT #129: Play'n hardball with the Handknives! AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #366: The Vulture is dying to find a cure for cancer! AVENGERS LOG #1: All the stats assembled! BARBIE #38: A holiday pageant like you've never seen before! CURSE OF THE WEIRD #3 OF 4: Pretty scary stuff, eh, kids? DRAGON STRIKE #1: Adapting TSR's role-playing game! GHOST RIDER #46: Check out Ghost's sharp new look! GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #45: The original Starhawk is back! HARROWERS #3: Cleopatra and | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marc Antony — a match made in hell! HYPERKIND #6: Crossover with HOKUM & HEX! KING ARTHUR & THE KNIGHTS OF JUSTICE #3 of 3: King Arthur tackles Morgana! MARVEL X-MEN COLLECTION BY JIM LEE #2 OF 3: The card set is now a comic! MARVEL YEAR IN REVIEW '93: Scathing self-satire! MARVELS #2: You are there in the early days of Marvel! Fully painted yet! NIGHT THRASHER #7: Bandit is back — and we don't mean Burt Reynolds! | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NOVA #2: Is Nova's girlfriend a killer? PUNISHER WAR ZONE #24: We took him down ... now we'll build him back up! QUASAR #56: Quasar's posse storms the Stranger's planet to rescue Karyl! RAVAGE 2009 #15: Can Ravage defeat the Goddess of Death? SAMUEL SWORD OF CONAN #218: Conan the sorcerer! SECRET DEFENDERS #12: Thanos assembles a team of Secret Cityborders! SILVER HABLE #21: The taking of Beverly Hills! SLEEPWALKER #32: Wake up to learn the secret of Sleepwalker! | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPIDER-WOMAN #4 OF 4: US Agent guest star! WILKINSON & SHATNER'S TEKWOORLD TPB: Adapting the novel TEKWOORLD! TERRARISTS #4 OF 4: The terror ends here! WOLVERINE #78: Face off with Lady Deathstryke! WONDER MAN #29: Spider-Man guest star! X-FACTOR #99: The team is torn apart! X-MEN ADVENTURES SECOND SEASON #2: The only comic that has a new first issue every fall! X-MEN ADVENTURES TPB: Reprinting the first four issues of season one! |
|--|---|--|---|

CUFFS OUTYEARS DRUG SWEEPS HANDBOOK 8 BULLPEN BORDERLINE BLATHER PLUTONIUM DISPOSAL BUSMAN'S HOLIDAY TURKEY



THE SPIDER'S WEB

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
MARK BERNARDO
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

In our continuing quest to catch up on our letters, we're running comments on the Cardiac/Styx and Stone story in Issues #376 and 377, featuring Jeff Johnson's Spidey penciling guest stint. We've also got to squeeze in that pesky statement of ownership, so without further ado...

Dear Danny,
I must congratulate Steven Grant on his excellent scripting job in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #376 and 377. He writes Spidey perfectly; there was more wisecracking in these two issues than I've seen in a while. With his work here, and his recent three-parter in SPIDER-MAN, Mr. Grant has shown himself to be a fine Spidey writer and I'd love to see him on one of the regular series.
Jeff Johnson did a fine job this month. His work looked much better inked by Randy. I'd like to see more of Jeff on Spidey.

Rol Hirst
Rushgrove Farm
Holt Head, Slaihtwaite
Huddersfield, W. Yorks HD7 5TY
ENGLAND

Well, Rol, we hope you've been picking up our sister title, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, where Steven is completing a well-received run of stories. The esteemed Mr. G. will also be writing the SPIDER-MAN: MUTANT AGENDA limited series, coming your way in January!

Dear Danny and Mike,
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #377 was nice in that it gave us more development of Cardiac. Almost like the Punisher was to Spider-Man when he was first introduced, Cardiac represents the man who is too consumed with power and takes matters too far into his own hands. The central theme that has guided Spider-Man for so many years now has always been, "With great power comes great responsibility" and there's nothing like seeing this classic theme updated, first with the Punisher, and now with Cardiac.

I'm eagerly awaiting "Maximum Carnage," especially since that Bagley cover you've got at the bottom of the letters page looks so good. The return of Carnage looks to be great, especially since it will put such a strain on Spidey and Venom's new "accord."

James Evans
6621 Sutton Road
Madison, WI 53711

We hope our mega-crossover lived up to your expectations, James. And the theme of responsibility you

cited is ever-present in the Spider-Man mythos... and due to be explored in a big way in our storyline real soon.

Dear Spiderlike people,
I would like to thank you for a great book. AMAZING SPIDER-MAN has always been my favorite Spider-title, perhaps my favorite title of all. Spidey's adventures just keep getting better and better. The artwork seems to be doing the same. Mark Bagley and Randy Emberlin did an awesome job on the cover of #377, and the interior art by Jeff Johnson kept the action going throughout the book.

I would like to ask you a few questions.

- 1) Will Cardiac get his own limited series or make any more appearances in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN any time soon?
- 2) Are there any plans for a return appearance by any of Spider-Man's older foes like Doc Ock, Electro, the Vulture, Mysterio, or the Chameleon?
- 3) How about an appearance by Juggernaut?
- 4) Are there any plans for Spidey/Hulk, Spidey/Captain America, or Spidey/Darkhawk team-ups?

Nathan Moss
1130 Brenton Drive
Kennesaw, GA 30144

Wow, Nathan, have you been peaking at our plots? We must be making you pretty happy these days! To wit...

- 1) Cardiac recently was featured in a back-up story in WEB OF SPIDER-MAN (a mag you really should check out if you haven't been...), and he'll be a regular in the upcoming NIGHTWATCH series.
- 2) Electro was the villain in the recent "Light the Night" trilogy in SPIDER-MAN. Doc Ock returned in the main story in SPIDER-MAN UNLIMITED #3. Mysterio rears his bubbly head in UNLIMITED #4, the Vulture is back with a vengeance this issue, and the Chameleon will be popping up soon, too.

3) Juggernaut took on Venom in the V-Man's recent "The Madness" limited series.

4) AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #s 381 and 382 guest-starred none other than everyone's favorite gamma-irradiated behemoth, the Hulk!

We aim to please here at Spidey Central!

Dear Spider's Web,
Please have a talk with the guy who forgot to stamp "Marvel Masterpiece" on the cover of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #377! This was truly one of the best comics to come out this year and should

be enjoyed by everyone in the country, not just those of us who follow Spidey on a regular basis.

Let's analyze it. Standard \$1.25 comic. No expensive gimmicky cover. Great story and fantastic art, the kind we started collecting comics for in the first place.

That's my equation. You proved it works.

How about a repeat performance?

Steve Perram
2920 Meridian Street
Bellingham, WA 98225

NEXT ISSUE: The Vulture has gained youth and strength from the Juvenator... but what terrible price has Spider-Man paid? And how will it affect his most important decision... telling his parents about his secret identity? The storm clouds are gathering... and Peter Parker's life is nearing a deadly crossroads! Don't miss "Lifethet," part 2, in ASM #387! (And wait till you see Vulture's new costume!)

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3. Frequency of Issue: MONTHLY
4A. No. of issues published annually: 12
4B. Annual subscription price: \$15.00/12 issues
4. Complete mailing address of known office of publication: 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016
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6. Full names and complete mailing address of publisher, editor, and managing editor: Stan Lee, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016; Editor: Danny Fingeroth, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016; Managing Editor: N/A.
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